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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered for the official opening of the Middleton Library expansion, which took place on Saturday, July 20, in conjunction with the town's Heart of the Valley festivities. This project saw the library double in size thanks to federal, provincial and local initiatives. The Middleton and District Friends of the Library Society are, once again, to be commended for their excellent work.

Through successful HRDC grant applications, students were hired as Summer Program Directors in the following branches: Middleton, Windsor, Kentville/Port Williams, and Wolfville. These talented students developed and implemented programming particularly suited to children, while promoting the Summer Reading Program theme. Three Icelandic ponies demonstrated what *faithful companions* they could be when they appeared as special guests at a recent children's program at the Bridgetown Library. C@P employees were in place this summer at almost every branch. Some were shared with non-library C@P sites, again through grant funds. They offered technology-based programming.

AVRL's *Smart Libraries* project, in conjunction with WCRL, has drawn enthusiastic response from long-time patrons, as well as attracting newcomers. For the period April 22 - August 13, approximately 100 new users registered for a library card directly via AVRL's web site, and many more requested information on PIN numbers so they could access their account to place holds, renew books, or just view their records. Presentations on this project have been made to municipal councils, and publicity via the usual library exhibits has, in all cases, garnered very positive feedback.

AVRL recently adopted the following mission statement -

"The Annapolis Valley Regional Library provides access to the world of educational, recreational, and information resources in a variety of formats and technologies."

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Summer 2002 saw CBRL say goodbye to various staff members. The McConnell Library was the scene of a party for Malcolm Campbell, who had completed a successful term as Branch Internet Trainer, and for Norma Mills, who had held the position as Gates Lab Trainer.

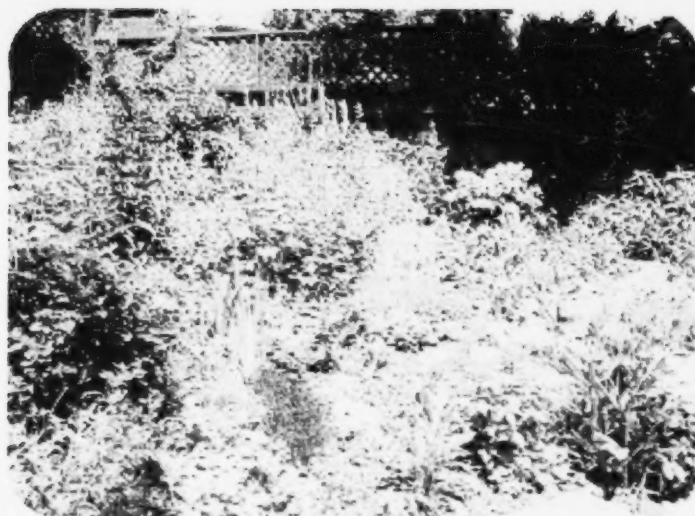


The staff at the McConnell Library in Sydney held a going away party to wish Norma Mills and Malcolm Campbell all the best in the future.

Marjorie MacDonald celebrated her retirement from CBRL in July 2002 with an open house at Louisbourg's W.W. Lewis Memorial Library. A large crowd of family, friends, co-workers and members of the community came to congratulate her on a job well done. Marjorie began her 25 years of service in 1977 and has seen many technological changes in her tenure as library clerk. Marjorie readily admitted to being afraid of computers when they were first introduced to the Louisbourg Branch seven years ago, recalling "...when we got the new computers I was a

little afraid of them... it was all pencil and paper, but now it's computers". Marjorie conquered her fears and she met and overcame the 'computer challenge' admirably well, as she did all challenges presented to her during the last 25 years. Juanita Paige has assumed the duties at the Louisbourg Library.

CBRL would like to thank Marjorie for her dedication to service, and wish her a healthy and happy retirement.



Kathy MacIntyre, computer consultant for CBRL, held an afternoon tea in mid-July in the setting of her beautiful backyard garden for the staff of the McConnell Library and CBRL's headquarters. Kathy is also co-owner of Accessible Technologic CO-OP.

Don Simpson of Grolier held a one day book display at the McConnell Library while CBRL's librarians enjoyed the hands-on opportunity to look at what's new.

Reference Librarian Don Ward, and Branch Supervisor Clare Mac Killop leafed through some new books looking for deals when Don Simpson of Grolier set up a one day book display at the McConnell Library.



CBRL's Summer Reading 2002 *Books: Our Faithful Companions/Les Livres nos Fidèles Compagnons* held it's kick off on June 15 at the McConnell Library. Preliminary statistics indicate that the program is as popular as ever.



The McConnell Staff line up to kick off the Summer Reading Program on June 15, 2002.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)



A beautiful hooked rug exhibition has been on display throughout the summer months at the Springhill Library. The rugs were hooked by the Ladies of the Night Rug Hooking Guild and the Friends Hook Nook.

The Summer Reading Club, *Books, Our Faithful Companions/Les Livres nos fidèles compagnons* - has broken a new record with 480 children registered. This is the most children to participate in the Reading Club in Cumberland County and is a 12 percentage increase over last year! Weekly programs relating to the Reading Club theme were held in Amherst and Pugwash, as well as the other branches.

This summer a new reading program was offered in Amherst for teens who are too old for the Reading Club. Teen Book Bingo encouraged teens to complete a line on a special bingo card. They then had to read three books and do two other literacy related activities, such as read to someone, write a letter, or surf the Internet. Draws were made weekly for cool prizes donated by local businesses and included free movie passes, video rentals and free food coupons. Circulation for young adult books, which had been dwindling in recent months, quadrupled from May to July this year.

Computer classes are back thanks to a LMDA grant. One-on-one and small group tutorials on basic computer skills and using the Internet have been offered in all branches, with a special class on PowerPoint offered at the end of August in the Amherst Library. The Springhill Library recently completed a computer camp for kids made possible through C@P funding.

Recently, CURL made some changes to its video policy, which allows videos to be borrowed for one week instead of just two days and now permits patrons to place holds on the videos. This resulted in a tremendous increase in video circulation in July 2002 compared to the same period last year.

Eastern Counties Regional Library

ECRL's CEO, Linda Travis, Bids Farewell To Nova Scotia

ECRL has seen a number of recent changes in its staffing including the departure of Chief Executive Officer, Linda Travis. Linda provided strong leadership during the past five years in such areas as introduction of the online library system, redesign of the mobile community and school services, and development of ECRL's strategic plan, "Linking Rural Communities".

In appreciation of her service, Acting CEO Dave Cumby presented Linda with a booklet prepared by ECRL staff and management. Linda has returned to her home province of Quebec to a new position as Director of the Sherbrooke Public Library.



Mary Landry joined ECRL staff in July as Public Services Librarian. Mary holds a Master of Library Studies from the University of Toronto. Originally from Ontario, with roots in Cape Breton, Mary comes to ECRL from the Free Library of Philadelphia.

ECRL also appointed Patricia McCormick as the Systems Librarian for a one year term. Patricia earned her Masters of Information Science Degree at the University of Western Ontario and her diplomas in Computer Networking and Systems Management at the Nova Scotia Community College, as well bringing with her a background within the school library system.



The Upper Big Tracadie C@P site was a busy place during the official Open House held in late June.

In addition to learning about the site and the upcoming Summer Reading Program, visitors were treated to a snack, story hour, and craft presented by Library staff. The ECRL annual workshop for staff and Board members, *Virtually Yours*, was held in June at the Mulgrave Professional Centre. The one day format included topics covering the catalogue's web interface, Microsoft Publisher Workshop for Poster Design, updates by management, and an afternoon of Summer Reading Program activities.

Shirley McNamara, outgoing Chair of the ECRL Board of Directors, was presented with the LBANS Award for her years of service and dedication by Art Carter, Treasurer of the Board.



Sherbrooke Branch continued to enhance its *Adopt-A-Library* program. Community involvement has been integral to its success, as evident by a recent donation.



Left to right: Cam Cruickshank, Treasurer, St. Mary's District Lions Club, and Corporal Terry Miller, Sherbrooke Detachment of the RCMP. Between the two men are some of the books purchased through the support of the Lions Club for the *Adopt-A-Library* Literacy Program at Sherbrooke Branch.

ECRL's third annual book sale was a great success this year.



Held during the *Scotia Days Festival* in July, the sale attracted several hundred visitors taking advantage of rock-bottom prices. Mystery boxes, a children's coloring corner, and a draw for prizes were additional attractions for ECRL's patrons. It may have also helped when the parade was cancelled that day due to rain!

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

Library Acknowledges Generous Donation

A generous donation of \$10,000, used to purchase five new children's computers and software, was recently acknowledged by HRL. In a ceremony, which took place at the Sackville Library on July 3, Councillor Bob Harvey presented a commemorative plaque to the donor, Mrs. Jogindar Majhail. In addition, Library board member Bev Sweetman, presented Mrs. Majhail with a library tote bag. The libraries chosen to receive the new computers, based on assessed need, were the Bedford branch, which received two; Sackville branch, which also received two; and Musquodoboit Harbour branch receiving one. Mr. and Mrs. Majhail, formerly of Montreal, hoped that through their donation, they are helping to increase computer accessibility for children who might not otherwise have this opportunity.



Mrs. Majhail and friends take a closer look at one of the donated computers.

Donation of Materials for Deaf Preschoolers

Thanks to a generous donation, parents of deaf preschoolers will now have a better selection of age appropriate material to read to their children. A recent gift of preschool books and videos presented to HRL from the Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia, means that important beginning level resources are now available for hearing parents who are helping their deaf preschool children learn essential language skills.

This wonderful new collection also opens up a world of storytelling to children who might otherwise miss the many benefits found in the wonder of books. All of these items are available on request through any branch of HRL. Nova Scotia residents outside the Halifax Regional Municipality may also borrow these items, either in person or via Inter-Library Loan, by requests made through local libraries around the province.

HRL's Lynn Murphy (left), Manager of Home Delivery Services with DAANS representative, Linda Lelievre and Philip Taylor, President of the DAANS Board.



Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) got a off to a great start this year at PARL with the launch party being held in the Pictou branch. A large crowd showed up to celebrate reading and the start of summer. The library was filled to capacity with children, parents, police, a few councillors, a mayor, two authors, a face-painter, and one large red dog by the name of Clifford. Helping to make the day a bit more special, children's author Sheree Fitch took part in the fun and kept the children entertained with lots of tongue twisters and stories from her many books.

With the Summer Reading Program theme this year concerning pets, PARL had a few interesting critters turn up at some of the branches. Kayla Cunningham brought her groundhog, Lilac, seen here munching on a carrot, to the New Glasgow Library Program Room.



Summer is the time for festivals in the Maritimes, and River John's annual literary festival, *Read By the Sea*, delivered as promised once again. The 200 plus fans of Maritime literature were treated to readings both old and new by authors Lynn Coady, Anne Simpson, Herb Curtis, Leo McKay Jr., and Ann Louise MacDonald. Due to the threat of rain, the reading venue was moved from its usual location of the River John Royal Canadian Legion gardens, to the River John Presbyterian Church. The authors read from the pulpit, while the audience seemed entranced by both the readings and the atmosphere of the 142 year old structure. The readings concluded in the evening with an Open Mic event at Nell's Garden Café, emceed by children's author Sheree Fitch. Eight local up and coming authors read to a large, attentive audience. With plans for next year already underway, organizers are hoping the reputation of their well-organized event continues to grow, making it one of Nova Scotia's must-attend literary dates.

In July, PARL hosted its first *Summer Writing Camp* for children. Funded by the local Human Resources Development Commission office, with additional support provided by *The Adopt a Library Literacy Program*, the successful four day event turned out to be a memorable learning experience for participants, as well as the organizers. Aimed at children ages 10 - 13, the camp attracted 16 participants for each of the four days, with 11 years of age being the average participant's age.

This pilot project, the only one of its kind in Nova Scotia, gave an added dimension to PARL's annual SRP. Both initiatives share a common goal that was realized successfully during the

Writing Camp. Young readers and writers were immersed in an environment that fostered the development of literacy skills to explore the written word.

Sheree Fitch, Maureen Hull, Thelma Morris-Fogarty, Sylvia Gunnery, and Jane Buss conducted workshops over the four day event. All sessions were child centered and focused on learning. Workshops were interactive with a variety of writing activities based on the author's strategy and plan for the day. The sessions featured one-on-one and group writing activities. Library staff were directly involved each day monitoring, assessing, and gaining feedback from the children and authors. Over the four day period, participants congealed as a team and developed a definite "writing hype".



Sheree Fitch (standing) surrounded by fans at the SRP launch party in the Pictou Library.

To mark the end of the four-day writing camp, Syvlia Gunnery set the stage for participants to share what they wrote with friends and family.



South Shore Regional Library (SSRL) Easy Rider

SSRL's easy reading/riding Chief Librarian Janet Clark cruises into Library Headquarters most days on her shiny red motor scooter. We expect the leather chaps and jacket to appear soon.



Hood (Trunk?) Ornament...



Frances Anderson went out with a bang and a smash on her last day at the library, and who would expect less? SSRL staff met Frances at her door with a 1979 Lincoln Town Car.

Chauffeur (and Driver/Clerk) Dave White escorted Ms. Anderson to the back seat of the limousine, where truffles and champagne awaited her. Library staff joined in and with the help of local radio station CKBW to inform the public, the parade honked their way to Library Headquarters to mark Frances' last day at the Library. Rumour has it she has been gardening her little fingers off these past few weeks, shedding nary a tear for the confines of the office.

Not One But TWO New Branches

It never rains, but it pours! SSRL staff were thrilled with the opening celebration for their second new library branch this year.



The new Liverpool Library opened on July 20, less than a week after closing the former DeWolfe Memorial Library. The new Thomas H. Raddall Library located at 145 Old Bridge St., Liverpool, boasts over twice the space and almost three times the collection, as well as a separate room for programming.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL) Adopt-A-Book Exceeds Goal



Bookmetres, used to measure the progress of *Adopt-A-Book*, were 'over the top', at the conclusion of the fourth biennial *Adopt-A-Book* campaign at the end of June. There was a total of 1,122 books, the equivalent of \$21,514.87, adopted at library branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. The goal of the campaign was to have 1000 new books adopted within a three month time frame.

As the results show, support for *Adopt-A-Book*, sponsored by radio station CJLS, remains constant. Library patrons, community groups, businesses, schools, unions and Friends of the Library groups, rallied round their local branch libraries to help meet the goal set for their branch. As a result, adoptions averaged 93.5 each week throughout the campaign. The average price per book was \$19.31. The cost per book for WCRL was a nominal \$1.76.

Library Receives Award for Service to Seniors

WCRL is the recipient of the W. Kaye Lamb Award for "Outstanding Service to Seniors". Regional Director Trudy Amirault accepted the award on behalf of the Library on Thursday, June 20 during the Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference held in Halifax. The award this year is being shared with the Calgary Public Library.

Yarmouth branch Senior Clerk, Yvette Frost provides assistance to seniors.



The W. Kaye Lamb Award, sponsored by the Ex Libris Association and CLA "recognizes a library that has developed an ongoing service, program or procedure of benefit to seniors and/or a design and organization of buildings or facilities that improve access and encourage use by seniors." Ms. Amirault acknowledged that "this award is really significant because every staff member at WCRL contributes to our services to seniors." When the award was presented before more than 800 CLA delegates, mention was made of the "innovative, personal and caring ways in which WCRL provides service to its seniors".

The majority of services to seniors are provided by the Regional Library through the Special Needs Department, the Gates Computer Lab and Outreach Services. WCRL's Special Needs Department, which operates on a one-on-one basis, provides shipments of materials, i.e., books, tapes, music and videos, directly to the homes of individuals in the Tri-Counties. *The Reader's Friend* program, designed for those who are unable to visit their library, is provided by community volunteers working with library staff. A partnership with the CNIB, which was formed in October of 1999, has greatly enhanced the Library's services to those who have visual challenges.

Seniors interested in computers can receive free computer training at the Gates Computer Lab, a regional training center, located in the Yarmouth Library. Every Friday morning is *Open for Seniors*. The lab is available to those over 55 who wish to work on their own or with the assistance of a mentor. In addition the library provides Computer Basics training to seniors at its smaller branches several times a year.

Outreach Services are provided by staff members from several branches throughout the region. For example in Yarmouth, a staff member visits 17 senior complexes on a regular schedule, bringing reading materials for the use of all residents. For those with an Internet connection at home, the library provides *Express Service* from its web site www.westerncounties.ca. With a library card number, registration can be completed online, individuals can request books, magazines, videos, etc. and the selections will be mailed directly to their homes, free of charge. The online *Seniors Café* is also proving to be a valuable resource for seniors.

The W. Kaye Lamb Award was one of two awards which brought WCRL to the forefront during the CLA conference. The coveted *CAPL/BRODART Outstanding Public Library Service Award* was presented to Regional Director Trudy Amirault. The Ex Libris Association, formed in 1986 by a group of retired librarians, is "an association dedicated to the interests and needs of people whose careers have been in the library world or related fields such as archives and publishing." CLA, established in 1946, is the national association which represents those who work in or advocate for Canada's 21,000 libraries.

TRUDY AMIRAULT WINS CANADA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC LIBRARY AWARD



WCRL director Trudy Amirault recently won a major award from the Canadian Association of Public Libraries (CAPL).

The *CAPL/Brodart Outstanding Public Library Service Award* is the national association's most prestigious award, as well as the key public library award for Canada. The winner is selected by a national peer review committee, based on nominations, and it is "indeed an honour for the individual and the library," says CAPL president Gina LaForce, who presented the award at the end of the annual general meeting of the Canadian Association of Public Libraries on June 21 in Halifax. A native of West Paradise, Annapolis County, Amirault moved to Shelburne as a teenager. She was presented with the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for academic excellence while a student at Shelburne Regional High School in 1964. She earned her Bachelor of Arts (English) and Bachelor of Education degrees from Acadia University, and received her Masters of Library Service degree from Dalhousie University. After working for libraries in St. John's, Newfoundland, Dartmouth, and Halifax, she joined the staff of WCRL in Yarmouth in 1975, becoming director in 1995.

Ms. Amirault has dedicated her professional life to the development and delivery of public library service, especially to residents of rural and remote areas of the province, stated a CAPL press release announcing the award. An example of her involvement in providing library access for all is the recent launch of *Smart Libraries*, a joint online project of WCRL and AVRIL, aimed at delivering library service 'when you need it, where you need it'.

"Throughout her career, she has fought for the basic values of literacy, equity of service and the development of the partnerships with the community," stated the release.

Ms. Amirault has been actively involved on the local, regional and provincial level, dealing with all aspects of library service for the past 30 years. She was an early participant in the federal government's *Community Access Program (C@P)* initiative, overseeing the installation of public access computer terminals in all public library branches in Shelburne, Yarmouth and Digby counties. With her assistance, C@P sites have also been located in Weymouth Falls Community Centre and le musée Acadien du Pubnico-Ouest. She has also served on several provincial C@P application review committees.

Ms. Amirault was a member of the Regional Public Library Funding Review Committees in 1997 and 2000, representing the Council of Regional Librarians and was instrumental in the development of the Western Health Information Project (WHIP), now known as the Nova Scotia Health Network. Through her involvement with the federal government's Web-4-All Initiative, WCRL has been an active participant in the pilot project.

As the Director of WCRL, Amirault has guided and directed the evolution of public library service in a time of economic, societal and technological change. Her vision of libraries serving as tools for community capacity building, economic development, and innovations in technology, have ensured that the library is seen as a relevant and dynamic hub in the community where the diverse needs of the individual are met. The recipient of the CAPL/Brodart award receives a plaque, a cash award, and a donation in their name to the charity of

their choice. Ms. Amirault directed her donation of \$500 to WCRL's Charitable Association in support of the *Adopt-A-Book* campaign. Brodart is an international library furniture and supply company, with its Canadian head office in Brantford Ontario. CAPL is a division of the Canadian Library Association. WCRL, established in 1969, serves Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties through 10 branch libraries.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

The School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) is very pleased to announce the publication of *Hot, Hotter, Hottest: The Best of YA Hotline*, edited by Prof. Vivian Howard. This new book was launched officially on June 20 during the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax.

Hot, Hotter, Hottest contains a generous cross section of the best articles published in *YA Hotline*, a unique newsletter begun at the SLIS 25 years ago. *YA Hotline* is produced entirely by graduate students enrolled in the *Young Adult Literature and Media Interests* course offered in the Master of Library and Information Studies program. To produce this volume Prof. Howard, current editor of *YA Hotline*, drew from the extensive number of articles that feature topics and issues of timeless importance to young adults. *Hot, Hotter, Hottest* is a diverse, accessible collection of articles that explores subjects like environmental consciousness, youth and athletics, multiculturalism, along with literary genres such as science fiction, graphic novels, and biography. This volume is relevant to, and valuable for, anyone who works with youth in a school or public library or directly in a classroom.

Hot, Hotter, Hottest is published by The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Lanham Maryland, and is no. 3 in the Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies series.

Vivian Howard, editor. *Hot, Hotter, Hottest: The Best of YA Hotline*. Lanham, Maryland and London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2002. xiv, 208 p., ill. (Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies, no. 3) ISBN 0-8108-4240-8. Paper. \$48.75 CAN (\$32.50 US).

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Farewell to Michael!

Michael Gillis, MultiLIS System Administrator with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) accepted a position with TSS, Department of Transportation & Public Works at the end of August. Michael has provided an excellent and much valued service as MultiLIS System Administrator & LAN Administrator for NSPL, not to mention all round resident troubleshooter under that "other duties as assigned" heading. Throughout his seven and a half years at NSPL, Michael has used his expertise in computer programming to extend the capabilities of the MultiLIS software to meet the needs of the Regional Libraries.

His dedication to his work has been evident in the many evenings he has spent troubleshooting the system. His efforts have contributed to the high quality and reliability of the online catalogue and the overall functioning of the computer systems within NSPL. Michael's approachable manner and willingness to help have made it easy to go to him with computer problems.

We will miss him greatly, and wish him all the best in his new position!

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

METRO COUNCIL ON CONTINUING EDUCATION AGM - THE ROLE OF HRDC: DIRECTION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT LEARNING

The Metro Council on Continuing Education (MCCE) 29th AGM, Program & Awards Luncheon took place June 14, 2002 at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax. After the AGM, there were two guest speakers. The first speaker, Robert Sauder, Senior Policy Analyst, Skills & Learning Directorate, National HRDC, discussed the recently released National Paper - *Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians*. As a follow-up to its release, the Skills & Learning Task Force has met with provincial stakeholders to discuss the government's overall goals, consult on proposed actions, and explore collaboration. HRDC goals include ensuring the workforce is more highly skilled and adaptable, raising educational standards in all age groups, especially young Canadians, and providing post-secondary education access to all qualified Canadians.

The second speaker was Howard Green, HRDC Executive Director for the Nova Scotia Region, who outlined the business plans for 2002-2003, with an emphasis on regional work being done in the area of skills development for HRDC staff. He discussed HRDC achievements in Nova Scotia for the upcoming period. This includes setting up a labour market information committee to provide much-needed research data to help with employment areas such as IT, where there are not enough qualified people. For achievements during April 2001 - January 2002, Nova Scotia Region, visit the website at <http://www.ns.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/English/busplan/p9.htm>.

The MCCE program was followed by lunch and the Awards Presentations. MCCE sponsors three distinct learner awards each year for adult learners pursuing further education. A number of adult learners received monetary awards this year to help them with their studies, and Robert "Dig" Nichols, MCCE Member at Large, took great pleasure in presenting the awards, with the help of the Minister of Education, Jane Purves, who spoke about the enthusiasm she always saw and appreciated when amongst adult learners.

Gillian Webster, User Services, NSPL, has joined the 2002-2003 Executive's Communication Committee as Webmaster. For upcoming news visit the MCCE website at www.mcce.ca.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Information Technology (IT) Week is a National Campaign to bring Technology to the forefront across the country. IT Week took place from May 3 to May 12 with many activities across the province. This year Industry Canada and the Office of Economic Development subcontracted the planning and implementation of IT Week Activities to the North Shore C@P Society. The Society is composed of members representing C@P volunteers in Pictou, Cumberland, and Colchester-East Hants counties, PARL, CEHRL, CURL, Chignecto Central Regional School Board, Cumberland Regional Development Association, Colchester Regional Development Authority, and Pictou Regional Development Commission.

During IT Week in Nova Scotia, a province wide contest was held. Participants logged on to an online scavenger hunt at a local C@P site and learned about the program throughout the province. They also were able to find more information about each of the C@P regions in a tabloid produced specifically for IT Week. There were three prizes available at each site, a C@P hat, t-shirt and mouse pad, along with IT Week C@P pens for participants. The grand prize for the province was a Sony Mavica Digital Camera. The grand prize winner was Jenny Gillis, a 10 year old Antigonish County native. Jenny accessed the online scavenger hunt at the St. Joseph's C@P site in Antigonish County.

The activities brought some new users to the C@P sites as well as many faithful users of the C@P facilities. Participants enjoyed the challenge of the online scavenger hunt and learning about C@P across the province.

DIGITIZATION NEWS

On May 17, library, museum and archival professionals gathered at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) to share information about their digitization initiatives. The group identified the need to put in place mechanisms for continued communication and resource sharing, including development of a website featuring an inventory of digital collections, termed the Nova Scotia Digital Content Initiative. As a follow up to that meeting, on August 14, Michael Colborne, Gillian Webster, and Bernadette Kennedy of NSPL and Kelly Campbell, ITS, Department of Education, met with Bertrum MacDonald, Louise Spiteri, and Haidar Moukdad, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, to discuss development of the Nova Scotia Digital Content Initiative and the roles and responsibilities of each institution.

During the August 14 meeting it was decided that a web committee would be formed. Gillian and Bernadette will co-chair the committee, which will be comprised of Louise Spiteri, Haidar Moukdad (SLIS), Paul Collins (NS Museum) and a representative from the Council of Nova Scotia Archivists. Eric Stackhouse (PARL) and Kelly Campbell will be ex-officio members. The committee will be responsible for content on the website and design of the databases, and will put in place processes for overall maintenance and upkeep of the site, in consultation with ITS staff. The committee will create a survey to determine the types of digital projects and identify various technical and education needs of the group.

Kelly Campbell and other Department of Education ITS staff will build and support both the

website and the inventory database and any other databases, e.g. funding sources, etc., which will be hosted on the Department's EDnet server. Kelly will create the survey designed by the web committee and put it up on the web. A group email and web board are already in place for the exchange of ideas and resources by the group.

Faculty from the School of Library and Information Studies will act as consultants, providing information on standards and resources, and will encourage student involvement in such areas as creating metatags and hands on work digitizing collections with an inventory to be used to match students to projects, evaluating existing indexes, and standards used in completed and in progress digitization projects, researching links to resources, and identifying funding opportunities, etc.

There was some discussion on the possible need for a steering committee as the project develops. The first meeting of the web committee will take place over the next few weeks and initial work on the website and inventory databases is scheduled to take place in the fall.

UPDATE ON IT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT

Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), Washington, DC was one of the key speakers at the CLA conference, held in Halifax in June. His lecture was very well attended, and people appreciated getting a quick update on what's coming in terms of information technology.

Broadband

The first big trend is broadband. This is sometimes defined as the ability and means to move large data blocks quickly, including images, movies, graphics, software programs and data. Examples include interactive TV and high-speed Internet services.

Middleware

This is a term for a new kind of access to materials that will enable users to get direct service to databases, for example, without having to concern themselves with the type of device they use or with a proxy server. Participation in the middleware arena will enable the applications of the "next generation Internet" for usability between corporations as well as consumers.

Digital Rights Management

Digital Rights Management (DRM) is focussed on tracking rights and permissions from widely varied providers. One area where such rights are being managed is that of digital video, which is being promoted for distance education. Clifford has been involved with ViDeNet, which is an international virtual network providing video teleconferencing, telephone and collaboration services over the Internet, Internet2 and related advanced networks.

Clifford closed by saying that the future lay with information devices such as portable personal libraries, which can handle up to 20 gigabytes of storage and perform many types of operations. For more information on all these emerging technologies, such as the newest personal digital assistants (PDAs), and the other topics covered above, see *These Emerging*

Technologies Will Change Public Libraries, a summary article from the Spring and Summer 2001 issues of *Library Futures Quarterly* at <http://www.libraryfutures.com/freereports/technology.htm>.



Nova Scotia Provincial Library had an information booth at CLA in Halifax. Left to right: Dale MacMillan and Arlene Watts, both of NSPL, look on as Geraldine Ryan surfs the 'Net during a coffee break at CLA.

NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH NETWORK LAUNCHED!



The Nova Scotia Health Network www.nshealthnetwork.org was launched at the Keshen Goodman Public Library on June 18, 2002. Over sixty people celebrated the Network with keynote speaker Dr. Darcy Santor from Dalhousie's Dept. of Psychology.

A media release accompanied the launch, resulting in an article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald. Media releases and promotional postcards were widely distributed at the Canadian Library Association conference later that week through the booths of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Canadian Health Network. Trudy Amirault and Jackie MacDonald, co-chairs of the Network's Steering Committee, presented a session at the conference entitled

More than the sum of its parts: how Nova Scotia developed a consumer health information service through innovative partnering. Funding assistance for the Network has been provided by Industry Canada's LibraryNet program and the Canadian Rural Partnership. The Network was featured in the July 2002 issue of LibraryNet Monthly.

The Nova Scotia Health Network will be providing training opportunities across Nova Scotia in the fall of 2002.

Dr. Darcy Santor, keynote speaker at the launch of the Nova Scotia Health Network.



LIBRARIES ADVANCE CANADA MEETING

NSLA President Peggy Hiscock attended the second meeting of Libraries Advance Canada (LAC), which took place June 19, in Halifax, at the CLA Conference. More will need to be developed procedurally, but there was reaffirmation at this meeting of the value of this unstructured network as an advocacy tool and clearinghouse. The mission statement for LAC remains a common forum in which all library associations in Canada are invited to co-operate on advocacy and political action.

At the first meeting of LAC in Winnipeg in 2001, four projects had been identified as pilots. These were advocating for a new National Library Building, digital copyright, control of government information, and library funding. Of the four, only the National Library Building issue led to action among most LAC members. It was thought that digital copyright should not be considered, given it already had a solution through the Copyright Forum and the remaining two topics did not get off the ground due to their perceived lack of feasibility.

It was decided since LAC does not have many resources, its initiatives must be carefully

chosen, with achievability being the top consideration followed by a relatively narrow focus. It was felt the more specific the issue, the more willing organizations will be to respond.

Although LAC will not have a physical presence at the ALA/CLA 2003 Conference in Toronto, a flyer giving the history of LAC will be included in the delegate bags.

Advocacy projects for year two include school libraries, the federal innovation strategy, First Nations libraries, and another look at digital copyright and copyright review when the federal government tables its position.

CHILDREN'S DATABASES EVALUATION

At the Reference Contacts Group Meeting held in April 2002, an interest in adding a general magazine and reference database aimed at middle or elementary school students was expressed. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) arranged six week trials for InfoTrac's *Junior Edition* and *Kid's Edition*, EBSCO's *Primary Search* and *Middle Search*, Electric Library Canada's *bigchalk Library Canada Elementary* and WilsonWeb's *Children's Catalog* and *Junior Authors and Illustrators* from the middle of May to the end of June. At the end of the trial period an evaluation meeting was held to discuss the merits of each product. Those who attended were Kitty Forrestall, AVRL; Lisa Mulak-McPhee, CBRL; Holly Bureaux & Karen Dahl, HRL; Eric Stackhouse & Fern MacDonald, PARL; Pat Lee, WCRL; Carol Morris & Michael Colborne, NSPL; and Sarah Hainsworth, Learning Resources & Technology, Department of Education, representing the public schools' interests.

Unfortunately, the Group did not recommend adding any of these databases to regional library collections, but requested that NSPL contact *World Book Online* regarding costs and trial access.

NOVA SCOTIA VIRTUAL REFERENCE DESK

Another interest of the Nova Scotia Regional Library Reference Contacts Group, is to cooperatively develop a web site which would feature useful Nova Scotia information. The Regional Libraries could then link their home pages to this site. Daphne Cragg, CEHRL; Laura Jantek, HRL; Pat Lee, WCRL; and Carol Morris, NSPL, are working on this project.

To date, Nova Scotia links, which have already been selected and put on the Regional Libraries' web sites, have been compiled and arranged in broad subject categories. These sites will become a basis of the collection of Nova Scotia web sites. Members of the Reference Contacts Group will be contribute links that they discover. Plans are to have the Nova Scotia Virtual Reference Desk on the web by October 2002, in time for Public Library Week.

2002 SUMMER INSTITUTE: CREATING ELECTRONIC TEXTS AND IMAGES

Gillian Webster, Information Services Librarian at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, received a bursary from The Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL) to be applied towards tuition for the 2002 Summer Institute: Creating Electronic Texts and Images, which was held at the

Electronic Text Centre (ETC) at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) Libraries, August 18 - 23. Alan Burk, ETC Director at UNB has arranged this workshop for six consecutive years, and has seen participants attend from all over North America. David Seaman, now the Head of the Digital Library Federation, and formerly Director of the Electronic Text Centre at University of Virginia (UVa), led the five-day workshop. One of the highlights of the course was a tour by Marc Bragdon of UNB's Digital Imaging Centre, which fulfills part of the Electronic Text Centre's mandate to lend technical and educational support to UNB faculty, students, and to other institutions for their electronic publishing activities.

The most helpful aspects of the course included studying various documents from both Electronic Text Centres for UNB, see <http://www.unb.ca/Texts> and for Uva, see <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu>. The course focused on understanding the theory and practice of marking up a letter taken from the UNB archival collection, see <http://www.hil.unb.ca/Texts/collections.html>. The course concluded with David Seaman demonstrating one use of a digitized letter, through its conversion via MS Reader computer software to a text-to-speech letter. The computer-generated speech was entirely believable, and made the one hundred-year-old letter, written by Charles G.D. Roberts to Richard Watson Gilder, come alive! There was a good explanation of XML as a standard that developed out of SGML, which allows for highly sophisticated levels of mark-up, after the "flavour" of SGML known as HTML proved less than adequate. XML has proved to be very popular because it is like SGML, but easier to use, and can also convert to HTML for web page display. XML is becoming the metadata system of choice for digital imaging projects in e-commerce, and especially with e-books.

HACKMATAACK AWARDS ARE ON THE MOVE!

Plans for the 2003 Hackmataack program and Awards' Ceremony are underway, with organizers putting importance on the inclusion of more communities in the Atlantic region. For 2003, the Award Ceremony is moving to St. Francis Xavier University (STFX) in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The Ceremony will be held one month later than in previous years, on Thursday, June 19, to coincide with a literacy conference hosted by the STFX Alumni Association. It is expected that holding the event during the school week will enable more children to attend and meet their favourite Canadian authors.

Information on the Hackmataack Award 2003 nominations is now available and can be found at the Hackmataack Children's Choice Award website at www.hackmataack.ca.

NSLA/LBANS CONFERENCE

The NSLA/LBANS Conference is fast approaching - Yarmouth, October 4, 5 & 6. It is shaping up to be a great conference so make sure you don't miss out! For more information on the conference and for registration forms, check the NSLA website at <http://nsla.ns.ca/conference.html>. See you there!

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books of particular interest to public libraries are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Charles, John - *The mystery readers' advisory : the librarian's clues to murder and mayhem* / John Charles, Joanna Morrison, [and] Candace Clark. Chicago : American Library Association, 2002.

Call #: PROF 025 .27 Cha

The authors provide an introduction to the mystery genre and offer tips and techniques for providing advice to mystery readers in the library. They include some of their own bibliographies, but refer readers elsewhere for fuller ones. They also include a brief history of the genre to pass on to readers new to it.

Willoughby-Herb, Sara - *Connecting fathers, children, and reading : a how-to-do it manual for librarians* / Sara Willoughby-Herb, Steven Herb. New York : Neal Schuman Publishers, c2002.

Call #: PROF 027 .6 Wil

This comprehensive book looks at both the importance and effect of father involvement in children's reading. The authors include up-to-date and retrospective research about the changing role of fathers in this century, as well as the diversity of fathers today. They cover much ground as to how fatherhood has changed, what effect fathers have on their children when they become involved in their reading and literacy and how librarians can help. The authors suggest that librarians make their library setting welcoming and inclusive to fathers by having website addresses, book displays, bookmarks, etc. on fathering.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

Natalie D. MacPherson

As the saying goes, "everything old is new again" and I guess that accurately describes Natalie MacPherson's return to Nova Scotia. Natalie began her career as the Bookmobile/ Books-by-Mail librarian with the Halifax County Library System, but left in 1989 to work for Thunder Bay Public Library. In Thunder Bay Natalie was the Coordinator of Information Services and worked in a very busy reference department in this northern Ontario city. After working in Thunder Bay for a few years, Natalie moved to Stratford, a town in southwestern Ontario. With the exception of a brief sojourn to work at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in 1996, Natalie has spent the past nine years in Stratford, most recently holding the position of Deputy Director. Natalie has returned home to Nova Scotia and is employed as the Manager, Information Resources with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour. Natalie can be reached at 424-6145 or macphend@gov.ns.ca.

Credits go to:

Trudy Amirault, Regional Library Director, WCRL

Bernice Cameron, Northern Region Community Access Coordinator, PARL

Peggy Hiscock, Finance/Fundraiser Manager, PARL

Norene Smiley, Project Coordinator, Hackmatack Children's Choice Award

Natalie D. MacPherson, Manager, Information Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour

Louise F. Spiteri, Ph.D., School of Library and Information Studies Dalhousie University

Gillian Webster, Information & Network Services Librarian, NSPL

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